

**Statement of
Chairman Scott Tipton
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Energy and Trade
On Wednesday, March 16, 2011
Before the House Small Business Committee hearing on
Spurring Innovation and Job Creation: The SBIR Program**

Thank you Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Velázquez for convening today's hearing. I would like to join my colleagues in welcoming our panelists as we continue to examine the SBIR program.

Generally, small businesses are better served when government gets out of the way. Having said that, the Small Business Administration does some great things to help new entrepreneurs and assist businesses that may not have been able to get up and running on their own. I believe that for the most part, the SBIR program strives to strengthen innovation and create jobs, offering a hand up, rather than a handout. This program strives to strengthen innovation and create jobs. I commend the piece of the SBIR program that targets a need and then allows for a competitive proposal process which awards a company to address this need. The success story I am most impressed by is the creation of the CDMA digital wireless technology. This process started with 35 employees but has lead to jobs for over 17,000 people and revolutionized modern technology by creating a more efficient dissemination of information.

Economic recovery starts with cutting spending, addressing overregulation, and removing hurdles for small business. In the future, the Small Business Administration is going to have to tighten their belt and make some difficult decisions. To accomplish this, the SBA will have to trim bureaucracy and ensure SBA funds are going to programs that directly encourage job growth. The President has delivered a budget that continues to spend, borrow and tax at a staggering rate. The only cuts that will result from his budget will be to private sector jobs if we continue down this path. We cannot continue to engage in the runaway spending, overregulation and unsustainable entitlement programs that are driving economic uncertainty and job loss. By cutting spending and changing the way we think about budgeting, we can make significant strides toward reducing our debt, getting our economy back on track to sustain job creation and restore a predictable climate that encourages growth. We must be cognitive of this fact at all times when discussing all programs and agencies, including the SBA.

Again, Chairman Graves, thank you for holding today's hearing. I do have a few subsequent questions at this time.